



# Department of Assessment

128 East Buffalo Street

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Re: **Continual Equity Maintenance Letters Going out May 1**

On May 1, the Tompkins County Department of Assessment will mail letters to property owners whose assessments have changed since the 2004 Assessment Disclosure Notices were mailed during the months of February and March.

Pursuant to Real Property Tax Law Section 511, only those property owner's who either scheduled an Assessment Disclosure Hearing or whose value changed since those notices were mailed will receive a change notice on May 1. It is highly recommended that all property owner's view the 2004 Tentative Assessment Roll in order to verify their assessment. Starting May 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Tentative Assessment Roll may be viewed at each local town/city hall and at the Department of Assessment during normal working hours. The roll may also be viewed online at <http://asmsdg.tompkins-co.org/imate/search.asp>

The Tompkins County Department of Assessment's Continual Equity Maintenance Program is a necessary process that leads to the fair and equitable distribution of taxes, whether county, city, town, village or school. A full revaluation of all properties was conducted in 2000, and subsequent adjustments in value will occur only when market trends or changes, such as new construction, are noted. If a market trend, upward or downward, is detected in a particular area, then only the parcels within that area are reappraised for the upcoming tax roll year.

For the 2004 Tentative Assessment Roll, 22,562 parcels have changed in value resulting in a tentative county taxable value increase of 11.3%.

More information on the Continual Equity Maintenance Program and other topics regarding assessment is available on the web at [www.tompkins-co.org/assessment](http://www.tompkins-co.org/assessment) or the NY State Office of Real Property Services web site at <http://www.orps.state.ny.us>

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